A

LETTER

From a Gentleman in the COUNTRY,

To his Friend in

LONDON.

Occaſioned by a PROPHESIE,

That was lately found in the place of Retirement of Father *Lewis*, at *Comb* in *Hereford-Shire*; he being the Party that undertook, for the value of thirty pounds, to pray the Soul of a certain Maids Father out of Purgatory, (the which) hath lately been made mention in a Pamphlet.

SIR,

THe News which daily occurs to us in the Country, doth give me frequent Opportunities of preſenting my Service to you; I am very glad, that you are ſo kind to me, as to do me the Honour, to employ me to give you an Account of our quotidian Tranſactions; But on the other ſide, I am ſorry that you will find no better entertainment, when you come into the Country, than now you are like to have. For our French-Wines were long ſince, quite ſpent, and our better Wine, our *Redſtreak*-Sider is almoſt drank up, for Father *Lewis* and his Accomplices were moſt inſatiable Drinkers, and would never be at quiet, till they had gotten our Liquors from us; and though that Holy-Father was ſo Conſcientious, as to demand but thirty (out of five and thirty) pounds of the Maid, to pray her Fathers Soul out of Purgatory (which if well done, might in Reaſon, deſerve a hundred) yet he was ſo Deviliſh unkind to us, as to threaten us, that we ſhould drink no more Sider after his Deceaſe; The verity of which, you ſoon may find, if you pleaſe to Read the Coppy of a Propheſie which he left behind him; It is as followeth,

The Propheſie.

BEfore the Glorious *Luminary* of the Day ſhall this year Enter into the ninth of the Cæleſtial Houſes, there ſhall happen ſtrange Revolutions, to the great Admiration of many. Deſarts ſhall become populous, and many Populous places ſhall be almoſt deſolate. Divers Fertile places ſhall grow Barren, and ſome Mines ſhall be exhauſted. There ſhall be Apparitions of Men in Bloudy-coloured Robes, ſhaking of Chains, to the great Terrour of the Beholders. In many places ſhall be heard wonderful and unintelligable Voices, to almoſt the general Conſternation of all thoſe that hear them; and by means thereof, ſome ſhall be ſo enchanted, that for ſome conſiderable time, they ſhall not be able to ſtir from the Magick-Ground. Divers grievous Sighs and Complaints ſhall be uttered, which ſhall even penetrate the Hearts of thoſe who hear them, whilſt others ſhall rejoyce to ſee Bloody Slaughters and great Fires, which ſhall then be in many places. Many things which for ſeveral Ages have been kept in profound Secreſie, ſhall be then brought to light, and made to appear as clear as the Noonday. Vineyards ſhall lye waſte, Pomaries ſhall be rifled, and divers Structures ſhall be Demoliſhed; inſomuch, that Corn ſhall hereafter grow in the places where they once ſtood.

This Propheſie was ſtrangely and miraculouſly found out, for our Gentleman of the two legged Tree, having a Months mind to try whether a Prieſts Garments would become him, going one Morning to try how Father *Lewis* his Doublet would fit him, by chance eſpied a Gentleman, which much accompanies the Black-Guard, creeping out from between the Lining and the Cloath, which he intends to ſend to *Rome*, there to be kept alive, for Zealots in future Ages to go in Pilgrimage to; and that he might be ſo much further meritorious, as to oblige other Romiſh Churches (beſides St. *Peters*) with ſome of thoſe Relicts, he falls to Ripping up the Doublet, not daring to truſt a Taylor with a matter of ſo great importance; leſt by him he

he ſhould be cheated of ſome of thoſe ſix-footed Animals, and ſo his intended pious Deſignes ſhould be performed by another. He had no ſooner thruſt in his Knife, with an intent to Rip up the ſtitches, but on a ſudden out leaps the Propheſie, and away vaniſhes the Doublet, ſo that he thinks his deſires are accompliſhed, for he doth really believe, that every Church in the Popes Dominion is furniſhed with one of the beforementioned conſecrated Gentlemen. This is all the News I can at preſent inform you of; but when there happens more, I will give you notice of it by the next, in the mean time if any thing happens at London worthy your pains of writing, pray Communicate it to your Friend and Servant,

M. P.

The PROPHESIE *Explain'd.*

Propheſie. BEfore the Glorious Luminary of the Day ſhall this year enter into the ninth of the Cæleſtial Houſes, *&c.*

Explanation. Sagittarius *is the ninth Houſe, into which that Glorious Luminary the Sun enters upon the tenth of* November, *being near the middle of* Michaelmas *Terme.*

Pro. Deſarts ſhall become populous, and many populous places ſhall be almoſt deſolate.

Exp. Thoſe People who in the long Vacation went into the Country and deſerted London, *will towards the Term come up again to Town, and leave the Country almoſt Empty.*

Pro. Divers Fertile places ſhall grow barren, and ſome Mines ſhall be exhauſted.

Exp. Some Clients who came up with full Purſes, will then go down with ſcarce a Croſs in their Pockets: and thoſe who were troubled with more vexatious Suits of Law, will likewiſe be forced to expend greater and more conſiderable ſums of money than others need to do.

Pro. There ſhall be Apparitions of Men in Bloudy-coloured Robes, ſhaking of Chains to the great Terror of many of the Beholderss

Exp.

Exp. Before the Term the Seſſions will be held in the Old Baly, *where the Lord Mayor, the Sherifs, and ſome of the Aldermen will ſit in their Scarlet Robes, with Golden Chains about their Necks, and thoſe Priſoners who are Conſcious of their Guilt, will tremble, when they are brought to be tried at the Barr.*

Pro. In many places ſhall be heard wonderful and unintelligable Voices, to almoſt the general Conſternation of thoſe who hear them.

Exp. In the ſeveral Courts of Judicature, the hard terms of the Law will be made uſe of, which many perſons cannot underſtand.

Pro. And by means thereof, ſome ſhall be ſo enchanted that they ſhall not for ſome conſiderable time be able to ſtir from the Magick-ground.

Exp. Some againſt whom Verdicts have paſſed, will be Arreſted and impriſoned, till they have paid the ſums of mony, in which they were Caſt.

Pro. Divers grievous Sighs and Complaints ſhall be uttered, which ſhall even penetrate the Hearts of thoſe that hear them.

The poor Priſoners in ſeveral places are apt to Sigh, and make ſad Complaints.

Pro. Whil'ſt others ſhall Rejoyce to ſee Bloudy Slaughters and great Fires which ſhall be in many places.

The Butcher muſt kill their Beaſts, and the Poulterers their Foul, and the Cooks muſt have good Fires or elſe they cannot dreſs them.

Pro. Many thing which for ſeveral Ages have been kept in profound Secreſie, ſhall be then brought to light, *&c.*

Exp. Upon ſome Trials, Antient Records muſt be produced.

Pro. Vineyards ſhall lie waſte.

Exp. Becauſe the Grapes will be all gathered befors that time.

Pro. Pomaries ſhall be Rifled.

Exp. The Orchards will have no Fruit left in them.

Pro. Divers Structures ſhall be demoliſhed, inſomuch that Corn ſhall hereafter grow in the places where they once ſtood.

Exp. Sturbridg *Fair is kept in a Corn field, and the Builders of the Booths are obliged to pull them down before the end of* September, *that the Field may be Ploughed.* And now I bid the Reader farwel, hoping he will be ſatisfied with this Explanation.

FINIS.